

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

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PRIORITY

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BUREAU OF
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At private meeting with Junta President Castillo Armas this afternoon, he told me that he was satisfied Monzon had been loyal to him during Monday's revolt but that he was considering holding of Constituent Assembly soon to eliminate Junta and leave him as sole head of Executive.

Castillo appeared self-confident and light hearted. His first words were "now we have the situation in hand and have strengthened our position." He was obviously elated by evidences of tremendous popular support he had received and he said he would proceed energetically to work out dubious elements in army and public services.

His only criticism of Monzon was that he had not acted with sufficient energy against rebellious units and had told Castillo over telephone when latter was still in Antigua that all officers were supporting cadets, which was later found not (repeat not) to be true.

For future he was seriously considering plan drawn up by attorneys to call elections for Constituent Assembly in month or so. He felt with present popularity election of friendly body would be assured. Assembly would ratify acts of Junta and elect him President for specified period of time. He did not indicate whether this idea had been discussed with Monzon.

I mentioned to Castillo Department's worry over plan to deport pro-Artenz officers to Costa Rica and suggested they be sent further away where they could not effectively intrigue against him. He nodded affirmatively but made no firm commitment.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

PEURIFOY

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REVIEWED BY *D. J. [signature]* DATE *9/9/82*RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

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